

"THE LOUISIANIAN."

The LOUISIANIAN is published every Thursday and Sunday at 114, Carondelet street.

Wm. G. Brown, Editor.

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NOTICE.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor of the LOUISIANIAN, and anonymous letters must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith. We are not responsible for the opinions of our contributors.

PROSPECTUS.

The LOUISIANIAN.

In the endeavor to establish another Republic in New Orleans, the LOUISIANIAN, proposes to fill a necessary void. It is the transition state of our people, in their struggling efforts to attain the position in the Body Politic, which we conceive to be their due, it is regarded that much information, guidance, encouragement, counsel and support have been lost, in consequence of the lack of a medium, through which these deficiencies might be supplied. We shall strive to make the LOUISIANIAN a desideratum in these respects.

POLICY.

As our motto indicates, the LOUISIANIAN shall be "Republican at all times and under all circumstances." We shall advocate the security and enjoyment of broad civil liberty, the absolute equality of all men before the law, and an impartial distribution of honor and patronage to all who merit them.

Desirous of allaying animosities, of obliterating the memory of the bitter past, of promoting harmony and union among all classes and between all interests, we shall advocate the removal of all political disabilities; foster kindness and forbearance, where malignity and resentment reign; and seek for fairness and justice where wrong and oppression prevailed. Thus united in our aims and objects, we shall conserve our best interests, elevate our noble State, to an enviable position among her sister States, by the development of her illimitable resources and secure the full benefits of the mighty changes in the history and condition of the people and the country.

Believing that there can be no true liberty without the supremacy of law, we shall urge a strict and undiscriminating administration of justice.

TAXATION.

We shall support the doctrine of an equitable division of taxation among all classes a faithful collection of the revenues, economy in the expenditure, and the discharge of every legitimate obligation.

EDUCATION.

We shall sustain the carrying out of the provisions of the act establishing our common school system, and urge as a paramount duty the education of our youth, as vitally connected with their own enlightenment, and the security and stability of a Republican Government.

FINAL.

By a generous, manly, independent, and judicious conduct, we shall strive to rescue our paper from an ephemeral, and temporary existence, and establish it upon a basis, that if we cannot "command," we shall at all events "deserve" success.

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38 1/2.

THE LOUISIANIAN.

"REPUBLICAN AT ALL TIMES, AND UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES."

VOLUME I. NEW ORLEANS, LA. THURSDAY, JANUARY 26th., 1871.

THE MUSIC OF THE SEA.

The grey, unrelenting sea,
A down the bright and melting shore,
Breaking in untold melody,
Makes music evermore.
Centuries of vanished time,
Since the glad earth's primeval morn,
Have heard the gale's inspiring strain,
Merrily new-born, and merrily old.
Take as a disordered pile
Of broken shells and pebbles up-astell,
Ringing along dim-lighted aisles
With a spirit-ringing spell.
So on the surf-white strand forever dwells
Chants the deep sea, waves, waves, raise,
Like voices from a vision land,
Hymning a hymn of praise.
By times in thunder notes,
The booming billows shoreward surge;
By times a silver laugh it floats:
By times a low, soft sigh:
Souls more ennobled (row,
Laving the worldly anem rise;
Discords are dissolved in the flow
Of Nature's harmonies.
Men change and "come to be,"
And empires rise, and grow, and fall;
But the wild music of the sea
Lives, and outlives them all.
The mystic song shall last
Till time itself no more shall be;
Till seas and shores have passed
Lost in eternity.

"OUR STORY TELLER."

JOHN ECCLESTON'S THANKS-GIVING.

[FROM HARRIS MONTHLY.]

The November night was settling down

darkly and coldly when John Eccleston came out from the little dingy office where he had just finished his day's work. It was an odd phrase to apply to John Eccleston, because in no way did labor of any kind ever seem to have any fit connection with him. And now as he emerged from the low lintel, after three years of this dull servitude, it appeared to fit him as little as it had three years before, when life with him was at its highest ebb and ebb and pleasure.

Looking at him, you thought of him, "endless pleasure hair," so bright, and blue, and full of gracious youth did he appear; and now as he came out of the dingy office, though his garments were slightly rough of texture, and certainly wanting in fashionable freshness, yet his air was that of a debonair gentleman, and he hummed lightly, strain from Der Freischutz, as if, on a night he had come from some festive feast where, the horns and harps had set the enchanted hours to music. It was many, many nights, so many that he had ceased to count them, since John Eccleston had sat at a feast and listened to festive music; and even now, as he came the brilliant air with that debonair manner, he is thinking very sadly and sorrowfully of a small home, where, not long ago, he had sat at a feast and listened to festive music.

He observes, the holiday merriment, and the gay laughter about him as he steps upon the wider thoroughfares, and thinks painfully and bitterly how far away it all is from him; and then some steps out of a splendid shop, and goes to a passing friend: "See, I have bought this lovely little *Omio* of Vals for Alice. It's Alice's birthday this morn'g, you see, and I wanted something especially rare." A tall, paucy-struck John Eccleston as he had. He knew of another Alice, whose birthday came upon this Thanksgiving too, and he had nothing to give her, even one of those pretty-colored lithographs, hanging in the window there, and a man talking so happily with his friend could carry home Vals's lovely *Lake Como*. How late it was since he, too, had carried home to his Alice the so expensive work of art! Still, with the sad and bitter thoughts, he kept humming unconsciously that strain of *Der Freischutz*, and looking, as I think a ever must look whatever befalls the brilliant, gracious gentleman. And lo! thus, he caught the observation of a gentleman who was walking down the street.

"What! is it you, Eccleston? Haven't seen you for an age. Where have you kept yourself?"

And saying this, he joined him with a hearty eagerness of manner which bespoke real pleasure at the meeting. Turning the corner of a street, they came upon a house whose one bow-window shed out a bright, curtainless radiance upon the pavement; and looking in, you saw a pleasant room full of pictures and all manner of delightful and charming things.

"Here we are now, Eccleston," exclaimed his companion; "and you must come in for a minute, and see a new picture I have!"

It was early; Alice would not expect him for half an hour yet; so he went in, in order to visit the picture. "Come round this side there now, with this light," and he led him honestly what you think of it when you're ready."

There was a pause. In it the host watched his guest's face with eager scrutiny. "But he was so eager he could not keep silent long."

"Well," he presently exclaimed, "do you recognize it?"

"Yes; it is a copy of that loveliest head of all those lovely fancy heads of Rosalind Carriers in the Dresden Gallery. But though I recognize it, I must tell you frankly I don't like the copy."

"Well, where is the fault? I see there is a fault, a want, or something, but it is so intangible I didn't know but it might be in my remembrance."

Eccleston, with his eyes still on the picture, sat down absent at the little table standing before it, and in the same apparently absent manner took up a pencil that lay upon a sheet of drawing paper, and with a free hand and a dreamy eye fell to sketching. A few strokes, bold and firm, and he held it up for inspection.

"That is what I mean. Do you see it?"

The other uttered an exclamation of delighted satisfaction; and no wonder. His doubts were all cleared in an instant. He had not mistaken his first impression. Here was the solving of the difficulty; and just a few lines by this amateur on a piece of white paper had wrought the miracle; had given to that loveliest head its wonderful airy pose, which the finished copy lacked.

"Eccleston, how did you catch it?"

"Stay and take a cup of tea with me. I'm an old bachelor, you know, and like my cup of tea."

"No, thank you; my wife will be waiting for me."

Steyner started almost visibly with the sudden surprise he felt. It had never occurred to him that John Eccleston had a wife; and the fact struck him, oddly and curiously, making a new combination of circumstances. His wife! Steyner looked at the rather shabby coat of his guest, and wondered what manner of home it could be with this clerk on a small salary, who was yet like a young prince in disguise.

"Come again, come in at any time," he invited Eccleston cordially, following him to the door; but he noticed that Eccleston, in replying, did not reciprocate the invitation.

It was a contrast to step from the spacious room with all its elegant appointments, where Clarke Steyner had entertained him, to the low-ceilinged little apartment where his wife awaited him; and John Eccleston felt it bitterly. But he entered with a gay smile and an apology for his lateness; and Alice answered as brightly as he.

"Oh, you've been to see that Mr. Steyner whom you like so much. I'm glad you went. No, I have not been waiting long."

And ringing the bell for their one little maid, she took her place at the table. She was an elegant, high-bred young creature, was this Alice Eccleston, looking quite as much like a princess in disguise as her husband did like the prince; but it was pretty to see them both in this simple, narrow room, and over this simple table; they were so sparkling and cheery in their air and talk, carrying with them all the time a consciousness of something too fine and rare to be overcome by the meagreness of their surroundings. He told her all about his call upon "that Mr. Steyner," about the picture and its deficiency, and showed her upon a fresh piece of paper, by a few touches, what the figure had lacked, and how he had recalled it. And then they too, fell to talking about art in much the same manner as he had talked with Clarke Steyner.

"Has Mr. Steyner ever seen the 'Violante'?"

"Oh, yes, he must, if he has been in the Dresden Gallery."

"Ah, I forgot." Then after a moment's musing pause, "He would appreciate your copy, John."

The next moment she blushed scarlet at the sudden color that came into the husband's cheek, and the expression of startled surprise that crossed his face. But immediately he drained the contents of his cup, and said, brightly, almost gayly:

"Ah, well, we don't want any company, do we, Alice?"

And immediately her own face reflected his.

"Oh no, I'm sure I don't; it is quite enough for my selfishness to have Mr. John Eccleston all to myself."

And into Mrs. Alice's deep, tender eyes there stole a softness which made the playful laugh a little suspicious.

"So you won't go to Lady Russell's reception to-night, or to Mrs. Ap-Gydon's ball afterward?"

"You prefer the society of a dull fellow who has been running to seed for his last three years—eh, Mrs. Eccleston?"

(Concluded in our next.)

We have before us several letters from San Domingo, which relate strange news. It is asserted in these letters, which are from respectable men, favorable to annexation, that:

First—Several war ships of the United States are lying on the Dominican coast, at the service and orders of Baez, and used by him as though they belonged to him.

Second—That these vessels were used to intimidate the people, when they were

hated to vote on annexation; and that the vote sent to Washington was obtained by such intimidation.

Third—That Baez could not maintain his power if it were not for the open threats of the commanders of United States naval vessels to destroy the towns on the coast, in case a rising is attempted in them.

Fourth—It is asserted that half a million of paper money printed in the United States, reported publicly, but of course falsely, to be guaranteed by the United States, as a means of giving it value, has been received by Baez; and he was about to put it in circulation.

Fifth—It is reported in San Domingo that the United States Government has paid Baez \$150,000, as a second year's rent for Samana Bay. Also, it is asserted there, and not denied, that the best lands in and near Samana Bay are already in possession of Cazneau, Fabens, Babcock, and Baez.

proval in many newspapers. It is to the effect that, though a member of Parliament he can not influence the appointment of a single clerk in any department of the Government. This may be, so far as it goes, an excellent thing. Members of Parliament having no personal or political interest in the civil officers of the Government, may deal more impartially with them and may exact more rigidly a proper performance of their duties and they may escape much annoyance and trouble in pushing candidates for subordinate offices. This much may be good.

But many features of the English system are altogether bad and anti-Republican. Such a system, ought not to be adopted in the United States, and will not be tolerated by our people. The English civil-service is slow, inefficient, unbecomingly crochety, full of all manner of red tape and martinetism; the members of the civil service form a caste as strict as that of the officers of the regular army; besides being profligate and mean. Every avenue to this service is guarded by the "ins" with the utmost vigilance. Their friends, their relatives, more particularly their sons, are sure to pass the best examinations, and sure to fill all vacancies, until the civil service has become a close and crusty corporation. We want no such system in America.

We do, however, want a better system than we now have. Secretary Boutwell, in his thoughtful, practical way, has sketched some features of such a system. These, with others, form an outline of what we deem to be a proper American civil-service system.

These comprise, first: A rigid examination of all candidates, both as to capacity and to character. This examination should extend, not only through the Departments, but to all the principal revenue and customs officers of the land, and perhaps, also, to the postmasters at leading points. These examinations will cut off the majority of incompetent aspirants.

Second: The aptitude of candidates should be decided upon by the head of the Department or a proper board of officers in the Department. It will not infrequently happen that a young man of sufficient knowledge and general ability for a position will lack facility or other qualities requisite to the particular duties of that position. He may be deficient in system; in aptitude for particular duties; in energy, in tact, in sagacity, in firmness to enforce laws or regulations, or in other qualities, the lack of which no examination will reveal. When actual service has brought these defects to light, the man should be dismissed from public service, though there be no fault in character or faithfulness. For this reason there should be a provision for the speedy and easy removal of such persons without a public examination or trial. This power should be vested in the head of each Department, or in a board of officers of which the head is one. This power of removal should also be given to secure the proper subordination of employees in the public service. When the head of a Department has not the control, an obstinate clerk may retard business or block reform for months; it has sometimes happened in the English service.

Third: A life tenure is not desirable as a rule. The introduction of new men secures additional energy and efficiency. There is no greater reason for life tenure in the Departments than in the business houses of bankers and importers. Competent and experienced men will naturally be kept as long as they can be. To such in private business are held out hopes of increased salary or of ultimate partnership; but there is also the opposite incentive, namely, that inefficiency will bring speedy discharge. So our Government should provide for prompt discharge for insubordination or inefficiency, and should offer, for long and faithful service the incentive of increased salary, and to those who remain in faithful service until disabled, the pledge of retirement upon half pay.

Fourth: As to interference in appointments by outside officials, we believe that a proper authority within the Department should have sole power of removal, and that interference to cause removal, should be prohibited by law. When vacancies occur by cause, it must be those who recommend the applicants or whence they come, provided they pass the requisite examination for capacity, and stand the test of practical fitness in actual service.

These we believe to be outlines of a system not inconsistent with our Republican ideas; one which will secure honesty, ability, and efficiency in the public service, and a system which will be free from the offensive defects of officialism in the English system. *Weekly Chronicle.*

THE AMERICAN CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM.

The recent article by ex-Secretary Cox, and the discussion of the bill of Senator Trumbull, opens anew the whole question of civil-service reform.

It is manifest that, under the present system, the Departments are over-crowded, and men often appointed to recompense political service, who enter the Departments to enjoy, not earn their salaries. Mr. Trumbull aims to correct this evil by legislation, which will leave the President and heads of Departments absolutely free to select from all applicants those who are best fitted for the duties for vacant positions.

He wishes to provide all requisite information to the responsible officers, and to prohibit all pressure upon them. If the object of this bill could be attained it would certainly promote both economy and efficiency in the public service. Whether this desirable result can be secured, even in part, by this bill may be doubted. There is no civil law which ingenious men can not evade, and a law like this, so long as public sentiment remains as it now is, will be persistently disregarded. Those who will use official influence improperly when there is no law will skillfully do the same contrary to law. It is true that the same objection is urged against all attempts at reform. It may not be a valid reason against trying the effect of this measure.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1871.

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SENATOR W. L. McMILLAN, proverbial for his jocoseness and humor, we think proposed to carry his joking just a little too far, when on Tuesday he moved, that the doorkeeper be commanded to keep the doors of the Senate Chamber open during prayer.

We cannot imagine the Senator to be serious in his motion, because he knows that the egress and ingress of members and others, during the brief interval that the Senate condescends to comply with the Almighty Creator and Conservator of all things with, is scarcely calculated to inspire or foster seriousness, to say nothing of devotion.

It would be far preferable to dispense with the compliment to Him who "is hit by the lightning," rather than reduce adoration and supplication to an absolute absurdity.

We are glad that the Senate noted the resolution down, though, we do not believe the Senator was serious in his proposition. Had he been so at all, it would have been a disgrace to the Senate.

Representative Yates of Illinois, has introduced in Congress a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, to make eligible to the Office of President, all persons who have attained the age of thirty-five years and been fourteen years a resident of the United States.

The Vice President has submitted to the United States Senate a mass of papers relating to the charges against Senator Sprague, of trading with the Rebels in Texas during the late unpleasantness.

The Senate has referred the documents to the special committee on investigation. Doubtless the committee will "take a tale" and bring back a report.

The absurdity of the "bond" system, the able and victorious chief of the Missouri bolters" Senator Carl Schurz, has been so well demonstrated in an article in the Bulletin two or three days ago, and the Times writer made, to appear in so conspicuously ridiculous a position, one in which his ignorance of history was so completely shown, that from a fear of offending our readers with "too much of one thing," we forbore for the present to print our further strictures on the gross misrepresentations and wild theories of Mr. Schurz, vagaries and nonsense, propositions, self-contradicting and absurd, which the type of the Times receiving for Gospel calls "irrefragable facts and arguments."

GOVERNOR HOLMES.—The high court of impeachment met on January 23, and received the Governor's answer to the articles of impeachment. The trial will probably commence some time, as the answer is said to cover over two hundred pages of foolscap.

The Boston Herald Correspondent.—This paper in its issue of January 21, in a reprehensible effort at the severe, perpetrated the following editorial, not only a general thing, but a thing, notwithstanding that Pinchback may have fanned a different opinion from those who honor him with their company. He should not judge all by those of his associates who are to drive a quill. How remarkably astute this is! Now, it does not appear to ordinary minds that it is necessary to be a fool, in order to be able to misrepresent things, and the very "vexed" request itself, gives a prima facie denial to any such interpretation of its scope. "Not as a general thing, fools!" No, we know that, we grant the rule, and have not the slightest difficulty in discovering the exception in the person of the Governor, who like many another marvellous defender of useless paper, fair and white, "suggested to drive a quill."

We had the pleasure of passing one of our pleasantest evenings on Monday at the residence of Hon. C. C. Antoine in company with a nice gathering of friends, who were invited to celebrate the entrance, of a pair of the family, into the bonds of the "New and better Government," through matrimony. The evening was particularly fine, and permitted the ladies to appear in their beautiful and attractive evening attire. There were prominent Messieurs E. B. S. Pinchback, L. H. Ingraham, A. B. Butler, Ed. H. Butler, J. C. Isabella, Wm. J. W. Quinn, J. W. Meador, G. Paris and many others. Miss Williams, Roxborough, Brannette, Henderson, and a score of others, in the bloom of youth. Among the prominent gentlemen were Senators Pinchback, Ingraham, Butler and Butler, Messieurs Quinn, Butler, Harper, Kanner, H. Lott, J. B. Lott, (R. C. Antoine, and many more, congenial friends. Dancing commenced at an early hour and lasted till late when the question of our graceful hostess

reminded us of the preparation of a suitable report, to which we repaired. Dancing was again resumed, and lasted till the small hours of the morning, when we separated, carrying with us the most general impressions of the entertainment we had enjoyed. We wish all joy and prosperity to "the little F. C. Antoine," and are prepared to join our friends in celebrating as many more such events as they please to observe.

IN ADDITION to the attention which Judge Atbell's charge to the Grand Jury, printed elsewhere, attracts, we have a very lengthy decision from Judge Cooley of the Sixth District Court, on the unconstitutionality of the vagrant law.

There is a case before the Eighth District Court, which Judge Dibble is "taking time" to decide. An appeal is now before the Supreme Court, from a decision under the same act, which will without doubt settle the question. We invite the attention of the Legislature to this matter, and to the fact that the law is unconstitutional.

Charles F. Norton & Co., Manufacturers of Watches whose advertisement will be found in another column, is a well known firm and it is a pity that the following commendations of their work are not more generally known.

I have for the past eight months, constantly used one of the \$15 Norton, Oride Gold Lever Watches, manufactured by Charles F. Norton & Co., 89 Nassau Street, New York, and found the total variation in its time but one half minute, (30 seconds), and it retains the same rate of time of gold as when purchased. Several of our men use them with the same results. I cheerfully recommend them for correctness and wear.

HORACE W. WHITAKER, Conductor, Erie Railroad.

OUR CORRESPONDENCE.

LOUISIANA STATE "REGISTER."

The "Register" of Sunday, the 22nd reads a lecture highly indited to the democratic press, which upon all, and every occasion, whether necessary or not, is constantly engaged in abusing, and belittling the colored members of both branches of the present Legislature.

It might have included also the "Tab" (or) of the "Louisiana State Register," who not only attacks the members, but does not scruple to attack a minister employed by one branch of the General Assembly.

He seems to be afflicted at this time with a severe attack of "Burch," probably because his parents failed to apply the rod in sufficiently profuse doses in his childhood. As regards the prayers that are necessary to keep Burch clear of the influence of the lobby, we might venture to surmise that if they were successful, it might prevent the Representative from supporting the resolution introduced by Representative Stamps. It is a suspicious name when connected any way with this last accession to the "Register," and which reads as follows:

Resolved, That the Louisiana State Register is hereby authorized to publish the proceedings of the House, the expense to be paid out of the contingent fund.

For fear that some body might think that Mr. Burch and other colored members of the House were beyond the reach of prayers, by committing such a flagrant outrage as the selection of this deleterious sheet for the above purpose, we opine that when it comes up for final settlement, they will vote against the resolution.

Since the above has been in type we learn that the resolution was tabled.

A CARD.

Mr. Editor: My attention has been called to an article in a late issue of the "Louisiana State Register," relative to my father, who is Chaplain of the Senate.

It is a common occurrence now-a-days to find both democratic and so-called republican newspapers decrying, and insulting (if they can) every public official, who is "guilty" of being colored; but it has been deemed fair, especially for the "Register" to attack the Chaplain of the Senate, who is also a colored man.

It would be useless to appeal to a mind so lost to all principles of respect, to cease such coarse uncalculated remarks; and if the writer of that article can confront him with his attempt to slime over the performance of his duties, entailed upon the Chaplain of the Senate, we do not, nor do we believe that any intelligent person will envy him his peculiar and ungenerous temperament.

As regards the unkind contained in

the reference to an article relating to myself, copied by him from the "Grand Era," of which I was Editor at the time; if the writer had taken pains to remember, he would have known that during my absence in attendance to the present Legislature, Capt. John S. Chapman, a gentleman of veracity and integrity, was filling the editorial chair, and consequently was the author of the article in question.

Capt. Chapman is one of the few white men in the State, who look further than color for reasons to vilify and slander men.

We wish we could say the same for the scribbler of the "Register."

J. Henri Burch.

New Orleans, Jan. 23rd 1871.

ETIQUETTE.

As we have seen in the "Register," the requirements of the code in social life, it is a philosophical, as well as an experimental fact, that decorum, or means by which this control may be obtained, is indispensable.

In view of this incontrovertible fact, some have deemed it necessary to establish rules, and laws, by which we are to be governed in our social intercourse, and this is called Etiquette.

While we commend the utility of these laws, we would not take the responsibility of saying that the observance of all the precepts, set forth in the code is absolutely necessary to true politeness.

Some of them are purely formal, and not generally requisite, except as a basis of true politeness, or outlines by which we are to be partially governed.

Every individual, we all know, possesses certain peculiarities, hence it is necessary for us to render our dispositions flexible, and though we stray from the strict principles of etiquette, yet so adapt ourselves to circumstances, as to obviate the appearance of displeasure arising out of a dislike of some peculiarity in our friends.

The great difficulty among those who are desirous of becoming adepts in this science, is that they adhere too fanatically, and slavishly to formal etiquette, and forget that we must feel within ourselves, we owe to our fellow man, courtesy in its simplest form.

I have seen the generous unassuming youth, fade like the tender plant exposed to the noonday sun beneath the pressure of an unbecoming expression, from one of whom he thought a great deal. Such impulsive expressions are not only impolite, but are unfair attacks, because they are provoking and would only make bad worse for the injured to retaliate.

As the kernel of some species of nuts is more difficult to obtain than others, so the character and inclinations of some individuals are more difficult to comprehend than others. Because rippling water, is a sign of shallows, is no reason that the deeply deep does not sometimes ripple, so with man. Because an individual is exceedingly jovial in company is no reason why he does not possess some rare traits of character, safeguarded with ideas profound and sublime.

COMMITTEE ON THE ALLEGED OUTRAGES IN THE SOUTH.

Among the many rumors circulating here tonight, is one to the effect that the committee of Senators appointed to investigate the alleged outrages in the Southern States, will so frame their report as to show that the South, or at least certain portions of it, is in a badly demoralized condition; that nearly everywhere the laws are disobeyed; murder, robbery and arson are freely committed; in short, that nobody's life is safe there under the existing state of affairs; and as the laws cannot be enforced by State authorities, those States should be placed and kept under martial law until a more peaceable law-abiding condition is reached. This, it is claimed, is to be the tenor of the committee's report, and it is said that the object is to exclude the Southern Democratic States from participation in the next Presidential election, by placing them under military rule. This rumor has most likely been manufactured from the debate in the Senate a few days since, on the question of appointing a Special Committee of Investigation; but how or by whom the story was gotten up, it certainly has flown very fast, and evidently found credence, for it was generally known in both House and Senate to-day.

The Vice President to-day appointed on the committee to investigate the alleged outrages in the South, Senators Scott, Wilson, Chandler, Rice and Bayard, four Radicals, and one Democratic Senator, Morton. Morton declined to be appointed, as his health would not permit him to serve, and the venerable Garrett, David, asked to be excused, on account of indisposition. Bayard is substituted for Morton. Scott is chairman.

THE VAGRANT LAW.

CHARGE OF JUDGE EDMOND ABELL TO THE GRAND JURY.

The following charge was delivered on the 10th by Judge Abell in the First District Court to the Grand Jury:

Gentlemen of the Grand Jury:

The number of daring rogues, pickpockets and idle vagrants that infest our city is a subject of the deepest interest to our people. We have a statute punishing vagrancy, but it appears to conflict with some of the provisions of the constitution of the State.

The change in our body politic, no doubt caused the framers of the constitution to heart in favor of liberty the most stringent clauses known to any State government; such as:

"Prosecutions shall be by indictment or information. The accused shall be entitled to a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the parish in which the offence was committed."

The vagrant law appears to be in conflict with several articles of the constitution, and has been so declared by Judge Cooley, one of the framers of that instrument. I have had no test made of its constitutionality, but am inclined to believe that the decision rendered by the Judge of the Sixth District Court is a correct exposition of the law.

An attempt to enforce a law of doubtful constitutionality would result in no good to the State, and might be made an engine of great oppression.

The District Attorney, entertaining doubts of the constitutionality of the law, has filed no informations in the several cases sent to this court.

Every offender being entitled under the constitution of the State, to a speedy public trial, and not to be required to give excessive bail, I have been somewhat perplexed to know what step to take in the premises.

Under the circumstances of the case, the remote prospect of a trial, to require bail in any great amount would certainly be excessive, and unconstitutional. To require only nominal bail would enable them to get out and continue their depredations under cover of a bondsman.

If any of these vagrants apply to the courts for a writ of habeas corpus, it results in their release and immediate arrest and retention at the expense of the city of New Orleans. Many of them are desirous of leaving the city; but complain that they are not permitted to do so before they are picked up and again incarcerated. The uncertainty of the "Vagrant Act" and remote prospect of a trial doars these offenders of the constitutional right of a speedy trial, and entitles them to be bailed in a small sum or permitted to go on their own recognizance. Those who desire to leave the city have been permitted to give their own recognizance with a request to the Superintendent of Police to see that they are not molested on their route of departure.

Gentlemen, this appears to be the only way of ridding the city of a portion of the vagrants now infesting it. And we have no permanent remedy until the Legislature amends the old law, or enacts a new one, or until the Supreme Court decides upon the constitutionality of the law.

Since the adjournment of court yesterday I have been informed that there are appeals to the Supreme Court from sentences to hard labor in the Workhouse, which promises an early solution of the vagrant law. It is declared constitutionally should be enforced with vigor; if not, gentlemen, I trust that you will urge upon the Legislature now in session the necessity of enacting a law that may be made effective.

COMMERCIAL.

THE WEST INDIES.

KNOWLEDGE, Jamaica, via Havana, Jan. 24.—Panama news at hand is unimportant. The West India and Pacific Company's steamship-Cromer was wrecked on the 6th inst. of Carthagena. Mails and passengers were saved. A telegram from the British Cabinet announced the erection of Jamaica into the principal military and naval station for the West Indies. Private letters confirm the fact that the Hornet, with Col. Egan on board, had arrived at Port au Prince, and was waiting for a cargo of arms and ammunition from New York. Three Spanish gunboats are watching her.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Mr. Porter, of Virginia, attempted again to-day to introduce into the House his resolution calling for an investigation of the case of Cadet Smith, at West Point, and to have a letter which he had received from Mr. Clark, of Hartford, read. Mr. Randall objected, and Mr. Porter will not take the House on Monday next, to suspend the rules in order to pass the resolution. The following is the resolution: Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be, and they are hereby directed, to inquire into the case of Cadet Smith, and to report thereon to the House.

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TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCHES.

(FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.)

THE LAST SORTIE FROM PARIS.

REDEEMING SLAUGHTER OF THE FRENCH

THE DEFEAT AT ST. QUENTIN—LOSS 5000.

THE FALL OF PARIS NEAR.

Paris, Jan. 23.—The cable reports that the French suffered terrible slaughter in the last sortie from Paris. Also, that their defeat at St. Quentin was disastrous. Their loss was 5000 in killed and wounded.

It is regarded that the fall of Paris is close at hand.

London, Jan. 23, 2-30 P. M.—Advice from inside of Paris to the 21st have been received. Great consternation and despondency prevailed in consequence of Gen. Trochu's failure in his last effort to break through the lines of the enemy.

It was reported that a large and available force of artillery and infantry reserves took part in the action. Trochu's policy was loudly denounced as weak and temporizing.

THE FALL OF PARIS NEAR.

The French lost so heavily that they asked an armistice of 48 hours for the purpose of re-arming their wounded and burying their dead.

The Germans refused the request of the French for an armistice to bury their dead before Paris, because the application was merely verbal. The outposts have, however, mutually facilitated the removal of the wounded.

VERSAILLES.

VERSAILLES, Jan. 23.—The Emperor William, in an order of the day, announces to the army his acceptance of Imperial dignity and acknowledges that his bravery and endurance have hastened the unification of Germany. He solemnly charges the army over to remain the strong arm of the Fatherland.

VERSAILLES, Jan. 23.—The bombardment of St. Denis is progressing favorably. The fort is almost silent, and several fires in the town of St. Denis and within the walls of Paris were observed to-day.

London, Jan. 21.—Several members of the conference have been instructed not to allow themselves to discuss any question foreign to the programme.

Longway replies freely.

Bismarck having refused on political grounds to pass Flvve, he, Flvve, applied to the military powers, who granted a significance. Flvve has probably already left Paris.

The French army of the North are arriving at Arras, Douai and Lille in a totally disheveled and discouraged condition.

The citizens of Lille are indignant with Gambetta, whom they charge with deceiving them on State affairs.

A dispatch from Lille 23d, says the bombardment of Cambrai has commenced.

The Paris correspondent of the London Times under date of the 21st, says: Gen. Trochu is generally considered incompetent. The Council of Defense only failed to accept his resignation because they were unable to find a successor.

It is impossible to make the Parisians consider the question of surrendering. They are anxious to fight under competent leadership. The nation of flour is now a half pound daily per man. The poorest people receive relief gratis, with a pint of wine each and a little soap daily. The middle class suffer most severely of all. Potatoes are sold at one franc apiece, and dog flesh is worth one dollar per pound.

The Emperor William in a letter to the Grand Duke of Baden says: "Germany, which has become strong through the unity of her princes and people, has recovered her former position at the council of nations. Germany neither wants nor is inclined to transgress her frontiers. She seeks only independence and mutual advancement and welfare of nations by the extension of her commerce."

Dron, Sunday Evening, Jan. 22.—The French repulsed an attack of the Prussians to-day along the whole line. The enemy were pushed, and the positions held by them at Daix and Hancville were seized. The Garibaldians entered Dijon amid immense enthusiasm. The Prussians in flight abandoned their wounded.

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THE ILLUSTRIOUS PARTY.
 down to the Tennessee, which was anchored off
 Staten Island. Dr. Howe, of Boston, was one
 of the first to arrive, closely followed by car-
 riages containing Surveyor Cornell and Lady,
 Mrs. Hastings, Mrs. Professor White and a num-
 ber of gentlemen, names unknown. These im-
 mediately swarmed on board the little revenue
 cutter, commanded by Lieutenant Randolph,
 United States Navy, who, hoisting

THE STARS AND STRIPES
 and running up the revenue flag, swung of
 down the wharf and steamed away from the Ten-
 nessee. Other carriages arrived now in quick
 succession, each containing one or more of the
 Commissioners, secretaries and various other
 members of the expedition, together with their

proper regard for the authorities of the colony, as they might feel (and justly, too) that they were slighted if the Commission landed at St. Marys instead of the capital.

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JULES ABELARD,
Carpenter and Builder.
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New and promptly filled up Sleeping Cars
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Mail Train South arrives at 11:00 A. M.
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Ticket Office, New Orleans, under City Hotel,
Corner Camp and Commerce streets, and at
Depot.

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J. B. MOREY, General Ticket Agent
New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern
Railroad.
E. D. FROST, General Superintendent;
D. R. MOREY, General Ticket Agent, Mis-
sissippi Central Railroad.

WE HAVE TWO WRENCHES AND TWO BRASS COCK
WALK TO ALL. A RESIDENT OF OREGON OR TEXAS
CAN NOT WATER FROM US AND IT WILL COST HIM
MORE MONEY HERE LIVED IN NEW YORK. ALL
IS AS EXPANDED IN THE PRICE LIST.

Special Notice.—We do not sell Waltham
Watches in any **Patented Gold, Plated, or**
Filled Cases whatever (there are all other names
for Brass or German Silver). The Waltham
Watch is worthy of a solid Gold or Silver Case,
and we do not propose to sell it in any other.

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Edw. Schuman, J. E. Mott.

Agents, New Orleans, Augusta, Ala. & Annapolis.

Lyons, the Orange Lincolnton, N. C.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

At an Election of Directors of the Metropolitan Loan, Savings and Pledge Bank, held on the twelfth instant, the following gentlemen were elected to serve as Directors for the ensuing year:

F. E. DUMAS, J. HASSINGER,
L. T. DELASZIE, C. W. LOWELL,
W. H. FLEMING, J. C. CAMP, E. H. BA
THOMAS ISABELLE, G. H. BRAUN, J. C. CAMP, E. H. BA
to call on A. P. DUMAS, at his residence
at 17 on Canal Street, New Orleans, La.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. All advertisements for the first time, will be charged at the rate of 10 cents per line for the first insertion, and 5 cents for each subsequent insertion.

REOPENING. Sewing Machines—All kinds, new and second-hand, at low prices. The public have long desired the establishment of a place where all kinds of Sewing Machines and Sewing Machine Supplies could be seen and compared the workings of one machine with another, and select from the different makes the machine best suited to the use to which they desired to apply it. To such a Mart we invite you at 159 Canal Street, General Agent, 159 Canal Street, New Orleans, La.

UNION LEAGUE CLUB HOUSE. 32 Royal Street, New Orleans, La. The rooms of this Club are open each day to members and their guests from 7 A. M. to 12 P. M. Lunch will be served daily from 12 M. to 2 P. M.

JOHN R. HOWARD. 26 St. Charles Street, New Orleans, La. Prompt attention given to civil business in the several courts of the State, and to all other business connected with the law.

HENRY C. & H. M. DIBBLE. 28 Natchez Street (Morgan's Building), New Orleans, La. Attorneys at Law.

HAWKINS & HART. 19 Commercial Place, New Orleans, La. Attorneys and Counsellors at Law.

A. P. Fields & Robert Dotson. 109 Commercial Place, New Orleans, La. Attorneys and Counsellors at Law.

MRS. A. M. PARRISH. 109 Commercial Place, New Orleans, La. First Premium Shirt Maker.

SHIRT MAKER. 109 Commercial Place, New Orleans, La. Particular attention paid to the manufacture of Gents' Underclothing, also, Baseball Club and Firemen's Uniforms. Made to order.

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Furnishing Goods. OF ALL KINDS, FROM HEAD DRESS TO HOSIERY, SUITS IN GREAT VARIETY.

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CARPET WAREHOUSE. 17 Chartres Street, New Orleans, La.

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It is the Brightest and Most Interesting Religious Paper Published. Being quoted from by the press of every country, more extensively than any other. The whole editorial staff, in the hands of experienced and cultivated men.

STAR PAPERS. and the regular weekly reports of his Friday Evening Prayer Meeting.

LECTURE-ROOM TALKS. Many other features of constant yet varying interest fill its columns from week to week.

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